GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alluvial -Of and/or relating to river and stream deposits

Amphibian -A class of carnivorous, ectotherms (body temperature

> regulated by outside heat sources) whose living members have a moist, glandular skin that is permeable to water and gases. Most amphibians have a well-defined aquatic, larval stage in their life cycle and then undergo metamorphosis into adults. Depending on the species, adults may occupy aquatic or terrestrial habitats. Frogs,

toads, and salamanders are examples.

Biological Diversity -The variety of life forms and processes, including the

complete natural complex of species, communities,

genes, and ecological functions.

Biological Integrity -Biotic composition, structure, and functioning at genetic,

> organism, and community levels consistent with natural conditions, including the natural biological processes that

shape genomes, organisms, and communities.

Biomass -The weight of all life in a specified unit of environment

or an expression of the total mass or weight of a given

population, both plant and animal.

Bloom -A readily visible concentrated growth or aggregation of

plankton (plant and animal).

Community -All the groups of organisms living together in the same

area, usually interacting or depending on each other for

existence.

Those effects on the environment that result from the Cumulative Effects -

> incremental effect of the action when added to the past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively

significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Dissolved Oxygen -Amount of oxygen dissolved in water.

An area mostly bound by ridges or other similar Drainage Basin -

topographic features, encompassing part, most, or all of a

watershed.

Ecology -The study of the relations between organisms and the

totality of the biological and physical factors affecting

them or influenced by them.

Ecological Integrity -The integration of biological integrity, natural biological

diversity, and environmental health; the replication of

natural conditions.

Ecosystem -An ecological system; the interaction of living organisms

and the nonliving environment producing an exchange of

materials between the living and nonliving.

Ecosystem Approach -A strategy or plan to manage ecosystems to provide for

all associated organisms, as opposed to a strategy or plan

for managing individual or clusters of species.

Management of an ecosystem that includes all Ecosystem Management -

ecological, social, and economic components which

make up the whole of the system.

Effects -Effects, impacts, and consequences, as used in the

environmental assessment, are synonymous. Effects

may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

Endangered Species -Any species of plant or animal defined through the

> Endangered Species Act as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and

published in the Federal Register.

Environmental Analysis -An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable

short-term and long-term environmental effects,

incorporating physical, biological, economic, and social

considerations.

Environmental Assessment -A systematic analysis of site-specific or programmatic

activities used to determine whether such activities have

a significant effect on the quality of the physical,

biological, and human environment and whether a formal environmental impact statement is required; and to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental

Policy Act when no environmental impact statement is

necessary.

Environmental Health -Abiotic composition, structure, and functioning of the

> environment consistent with natural conditions, including the natural abiotic processes that shape the environment.



Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

Glossary of Terms

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Eutrophication -	The intentional of	or unintentional	enrichment of water.

Fauna - All the animals of a particular region or a particular era.

Flora - All the plants of a particular region or a particular era.

Food Chain - The dependence of organisms upon others in a series of

food. The chain begins with plants or scavenging organisms and ends with the largest carnivores.

Goals - Broad statements of direction; end results or positions to

be achieved.

Hardness - A measurement of the content of dissolved calcium and

magnesium in water.

Hydrology - The science of water in the hydrological cycle, the sun-

driven movement of water between aquatic and terrestrial environments and the atmosphere, including evapostranspiration, condensation, precipitation, and

runoff.

Impoundment - A natural or artificial body of water that is held back by

a dam.

Interdisciplinary Team - A group of individuals with varying areas of expertise

assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad enough to adequately analyze the problem and propose action.

Invertebrate - An animal without a backbone or internal bony skeleton.

Insects, crustaceans, worms, corals, and molluscs are

examples.

Mesic - Describing an environment having moderate rainfall and

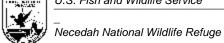
moderately moist, well-drained soils. Mesic plants are

those that require moisture.

Monitoring - A process of collecting information to evaluate if an

objective and/or anticipated or assumed results of a management plan are being realized (effectiveness monitoring) or if implementation is proceeding as planned

(implementation monitoring).



National Environmental Policy Act -

An Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1969 to declare a national policy that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between humankind and the environment, promotes efforts that prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of humanity, enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation, and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality.

Natural Conditions -

Conditions thought to exist from the end of the Medieval Warm Period to the advent of the industrial era (app. 950AD to 1800AD), based upon scientific study and sound professional judgement.

Objectives -

Intermediate-term targets necessary for the satisfaction of Refuge goals; quantifiable measures that serve as indicators against which attainment, or progress toward attainment, of goals can be measured.

pH -

A measure of the relative concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution; indicating the acidity or alkalinity of the solution. A pH value of 7 indicates a neutral solution; values that are greater than 7 are basic, and those below 7 are acidic. Vinegar has a pH of 3; ocean water has a pH of approximately 8.

Reptile -

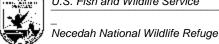
A class of vertebrates whose skin is dry, lacking in glands, and covered with scales. Claws are present and skull, limb bones, vertebrae, muscles, and so forth are stronger and more advanced than those of amphibians. Egg fertilization is internal, there is no larval stage, and eggs have a protective, hard shell.

Riparian Area -

A geographic area containing an aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent upland areas that directly affects it. This includes floodplain, and associated woodland, rangeland, or other related upland areas. Pertaining to the banks of streams, lakes, wetlands, or tidewater.

Riparian Zones -

Terrestrial areas where the vegetation complex and micro-climate conditions are products of the combined presence and influence of perennial and/or intermittent



water, associated high water tables, and soils that exhibit some wetness characteristics. Normally used to refer to the zone within which plants grow rooted in the water table of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs, marshes, seeps, bogs, and wet meadows.

Savanna -

A community that was historically bordered by the prairies of the west and the deciduous forests of the east. It is a community type that falls in the middle of a continuum from prairie to forest. Savannas characteristically have less than 50 percent tree crown

cover.

Sedge -A grass-like plant, usually having a three-sided stem and

> clearly three-ranked leaves. The pistil, a female flower part, is surrounded by a sac-like or flask-shaped

structure called the *peryginium*.

The settling-out or deposition of suspended materials. Sedimentation -

Sensitive Species -Those plant or animal species for which population

> viability is a concern as evidence by a significant current or potential downward trend in population numbers,

distribution, density, or habitat capability.

The number of different species in a given area. Species Richness -

Stakeholder -Any group or individual who is affected by or who can

affect the future of the Refuge.

Tactical plans that describe in detail specific strategies Step-Down Management Plans -

> and implementation schedules for management functions (e.g., habitat management, public use, fire,

safety, etc).

A pattern of purposes, policies, programs, actions, Strategic Framework -

decisions, or resource allocations that describe what the

Refuge is, what it does, and why it does it.

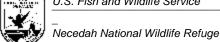
Strategies -Step-down approaches that could be used to meet

> Refuge goals and objectives; provide direction for defining and coordinating operational tasks to effectively

perform the Refuge's purpose.

Succession -A gradual change from one community to another and

> characterized by a progressive change in species structure, an increase in biomass and organic matter



accumulation, and a gradual balance between community production and community respiration.

Threatened Species -

Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future. A plant or animal identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.

Total Dissolved Solids -

A measure of the total quantity of dissolved substances contained in water or effluent, including organic matter, minerals, and other inorganic substances.

Viable Population -

A viable population is one which has such numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals as to provide a high likelihood that a species will continue to exist and be well-distributed throughout its range.

Warm Season Grasses -

A grass that grows most during the warmest seasons of the year.

Watershed -

The drainage basin contributing water, organic matter, dissolved nutrients, and sediments to a water body.

Watershed Analysis -

A systematic procedure for characterizing watershed and ecological processes to meet specific management and social objectives. Watershed analysis is a stratum of ecosystem management planning applied to watersheds.

Watershed Restoration -

Actions taken to improve the current conditions of a watershed to restore degraded habitat, and to provide long-term protection to natural resources, including riparian, terrestrial, and aquatic resources.

Watershed Treatments -

Specific actions or tools to satisfy the goals and objectives of a watershed project. These may include establishing permanent vegetation on sensitive areas within the watershed (riparian buffers, stream bank stabilization, erosion-prone areas); establishing permanent wildlife habitat for dependent species (warm/cool season grasses, wetlands, sediment retention, erosion, or water control structure basins. field/farmstead windbreaks, shelter rows, and winter food plots); and encouraging Best Management Practices (BMP's) on agricultural lands (strip-cropping systems, terraces, diversions, contour farming, cropland protective cover, conservation tillage, feedlot and manure management).